

Message Text

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64

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-13 OMB-01 DRC-01 /136 W

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R 182050Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2939

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAM

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1. IN A LETTER TO THE EDITOR OF THE DAILY GLEANER ON SEPTEMBER 17, INDEPENDENT MP ROBERT LIGHTBOURNE, OUTLINING QUESTIONS THAT HE WOULD BE PUTTING TO THE PRIME MINISTER IN PARLIAMENT, ALLEGED THAT THE PRIME MINISTER, IN THE COURSE OF HIS SPEECHES AND PRESS CONFERENCES OF THE PAST SEVERAL WEEKS, HAD STATED THE NEED FOR THE UNITED STATES TO TERMINATE HER ASSOCIATION WITH PUERTO RICO. LIGHTBOURNE ASKED WHETHER THE PM HAD ANY MANDATE FROM PUERTO RICO TO RAISE THIS MATTER?

2. THE PRIME MINISTER IMMEDIATELY RESPONDED TO LIGHTBOURNE SAYING, "I WISH TO STATE CATEGORICALLY THAT NO REFERENCE TO PUERTO RICO WAS MADE IN EITHER THE SPEECH IN ALGIERS OR AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE".

3. EARLY THIS MORNING LIGHTBOURNE CALLED ME AND ASKED WHETHER WE HAD ANY INDICATION THAT THE PRIME MINISTER HAD MADE ANY REFERENCE TO PUERTO RICO IN ANY OF HIS SPEECHES. I RESPONDED THAT WE HAD NO SUCH INFORMATION. LIGHTBOURNE, SOMEWHAT VAGUELY SAID THAT HE HAD HEARD SUCH A REFERENCE
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ON THE RADIO,BUT COULD NOT REMEMBER WHEN

4. COMMENT. LIGHTBOURNE HAS OBVIOUSLY BEEN CAUGHT SHORT BY THE PRIME MINISTER FOR THE MOMENT AND IS SEARCHING FRANTICALLY FOR SOME SUPPORTIVE EVIDENCE. MANLEY'S REPLY, HOWEVER, REFERS ONLY TO HIS ALGIERS SPEECH AND HOMECOMING PRESS CONFERENCE, WHICH, INDEED, CARRY NO REFERENCE TO PUERTO RICO. IT APPEARS THAT A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF WHAT WAS SAID AT ALGIERS AND THROUGHOUT AFRICA HAS GONE UNREPORTED IN JAMAICA, HOWEVER, AND THOUGH HIGHLY UNLIKELY, GIVEN THE EMOTIONALISM OF THE TIMES IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE PM OR DUDLEY THOMPSON COULD HAVE MADE SUCH A STATEMENT ON OTHER OCCASIONS. I WOULD APPRECIATE BEING INFORMED OF THE RECEIPT OF SUCH REPORTS ELSEWHERE. HEWITT

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